SWEDISH SOCIETY HAS AN OUTING: The Day Is Spent in Picnicking by ...
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SWEDISH SOCIETY HAS AN OUTING

The Day Is Spent in Picnicking by Members of the American Patriotic Society

Shell Mound Park presented a gay scene yesterday. The occasion was the celebration of the national day of the Swedish-American Patriotic Society, which is composed of native Swedes and their descendants who have become citizens of the United States. About 250 members from San Francisco and Oakland arrived at the park in the afternoon, and about half that number in the evening. All the pathways and the pavilion were decorated with shields representing the twenty-four different provinces in Sweden and with flags. Many of the children were dressed in the native fashion, and everywhere there was a scene of life and enjoyment.

A little after 2:30 the midsummer pole was raised. This is one of the features of the Swedish holidays which take place annually in the old country. It is a tall pole around which greens are entwined, and young and old dance. After the raising President Alexander Olsson of the society delivered a short address.

This was followed by foot races, which resulted in the following winners: First race, for boys under 10 years, Charles Nelson. Second race, for boys over 10 years, John Johnson. Third race, for girls under 10 years, May Olsen. Fourth race, for girls over 10 years, Annie Erickson. Ladies' race, Maude Iverson. Gentlemen's race, H. McDonough. Delegates' race, C. Ruber. Twenty little boys and girls, dressed in Swedish costume, pleased the people by dancing the national dance, led by Arthur Sandahl and Inez Tesche. In the evening Miss Jennie Gustafson, an Oakland belle, was crowned Queen of the Midsummer. She was unanimously elected. The Swedish band played several selections and the Swedish Singing Society sang many national songs. Fire works were set off, and the gay day at Shell Mound was ended with dancing in the pavilion until 11 o'clock. Alexander Olsson was master of the ceremonies, assisted by eleven committees. Not an accident occurred.

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